

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
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Congressman Dent amends defense bill, ensures use of military technology for homeland security

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15), a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, supported passage of H.R. 5122, the National Defense Reauthorization Act, and added an amendment that would speed up the availability of important military technology for Homeland Security purposes.

The bill provides funding for national defense and supports troops serving in harm's way. Congressman Dent's amendment ensures that the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security work together as a part of a Homeland Defense-Homeland Security Technology Transfer Consortium to accelerate the transfer of viable DOD technologies to enhance operations like border patrol, police and emergency services.

"The Department of Defense has been a leading developer of technology for years, and some of the innovations it has pioneered may have outstanding homeland security applications," Congressman Dent said in proposing his amendment. "While these technologies have been helpful to our troops overseas, the Federal, state, and local agencies charged with protecting us here at home could also make good use of these kinds of products."

These types of technologies include: unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and ground sensors, which can help authorities monitor activities over vast expanses of terrain; biometric identification technologies, which

can assist in the creation of tamper-proof identity cards; radiological detectors, which can monitor the transport of nuclear and other potentially dangerous materials; and sophisticated surveillance equipment, examples of which include night-vision goggles and microwave and infrared imaging.

“Unfortunately, the process of transferring these technologies from the military to the civilian sector has been a bit slow, and as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I would like first responders and other appropriate authorities to be able to gain quicker access to (and to make good use of) these technologies,” Congressman Dent said.

The amendment received high praise from House Armed Forces Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) and Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D-TX), a veteran of 26 years as a Border Patrol officer.

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